

Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice

Thursday, January 11, 2007, 6 to 8 PM

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

Conference Room 62

AGENDA

Members Present: Justice Elizabeth Weaver, Sandra Amen-Bryan, Wayne Beerbower, Nancy Diehl, Sue Dobrich, Sydney Duncan, Shauna Dunning, Don Duquette, Elias Escobedo, Kathy Falk Fehrman, Gloria Gillespie, John Gravier, Linda Hallmark, Kathy Lacko, Judy Labovitz, Bill Lansat, Sandy Lindsey, Christine McPherson, Ted Melinat, Eugene Moore, JoAnn Monaghan, Jolanda Murphy, Bob O'Brien, Sue Parrish, Greg Pittman, Lawrence Richardson, Pat Sorenson, Lisa Sullivan, Pat Wagner, David Wolock, Tracey Yokich, DHS: Colleen Duhm, Jim Hennessey, Ted Forrest, Mary Mehren, Steve Yager, Guests: Carol Siemon, Shannon Stotenbur-Wing

Members Absent: Nancy Francis, Pamela Gilbert-O'Sullivan, Judy Hartsfield, Radwan Khoury, Mark Liss, Michael Reisch, Alice Thompson

Note: A strategic planning session was held from 4 to 6 PM on this date and continued on 1/12/07 from 8 am to 3 PM. The Strategic Plan was facilitated by Charles Jones and Stan Parker of DHS. Information from the strategic planning session will be incorporated into these minutes.

1. Welcome

All four of the new members, Sandra Amen-Bryan, Shauna Dunning, John Gravier, and Lawrence Richardson were present for the meeting and strategic planning session. During the strategic planning session opening, all members introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of October 25, 2006 Task Force meeting

Motion by Tracey Yokich to approve minutes. Motion 2nd by Nancy Diehl. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

3. DHS Report-Jim Hennessey

The DHS report was given during the strategic planning session environmental scan power point. Jim discussed the pending lawsuit against DHS. See the environmental scan power point for more information.

4. Committee Reports

A. Collaboration, Coordination, & Problem Solving-Sue Dobrich & Sandra Lindsey

(1) Domestic Violence-Extension Request-Colleen Duhm

MDVPTB has requested an extension on the deadline for completion of the DV training for CPS workers and DV providers. The extension was approved. The new deadline is 12/31/07.

(2) Yellowbook Update (Bill Newhouse)

Bill has the update prepared. Discussion is being done on how the update will be distributed.

(3) MPHI Contracts-Shannon Stotenbur-Wing of MPHI

Shannon gave a report on the AHT Training that was held 11/8/06. The evaluation summary has been provided to Colleen Duhm. The training session went well and overall the feedback was very good.

Shannon provided copies of the first deliverable for the “Protocol Contract”. MPHI has completed the review of all the current protocols and developed a matrix of how the protocols overlap. The next step will be jointing the protocols. A workgroup will be formed to work on that part of the contract. While working on this contract, it appears that most counties do not have a joint CPS/LE/PA investigative protocol in place as mandated by the Child Protection Law. (GTF developed the Model Child Abuse Protocol in 1992 as a guide for counties when developing there investigative protocol.)

Also, a committee is continuing to revise the Death Scene Tool. A work group is in place. They are deciding which parts of the current tool are essential and how to format the revised tool.

(4) Request for Proposals-Colleen Duhm

A draft Request for Proposals (RFP) was provided to the entire task force. It was decided that we should wait to finalize the RFP until after the strategic plan is completed.

B. Training-Bill Lansat

(1) SCAO Update-Carol Siemon

Carol provided a copy the “Report to the GTF” dated 1/11/07 on SCAO’s activities since the last GTF meeting. The Substance Abuse conference is scheduled for April 3 & 4, 2007. Save the Date cards have been sent out the GTF members. Carol provided a copy of the tentative agenda. The Appellate Issues in Child Protective Proceedings is scheduled for 3/14/07.

C. Citizens’ Review Panel – Gloria Gillespie

Tracey Yokich presented her proposal based on Judge Tacoma’s article and issues of permanency for foster children. Carol Siemon indicated that there is a task force at SCAO working on this issue and soon will be proposing legislation. The SCAO contact regarding this task force is Kelly Howard.

D. Summit-Linda Hallmark

The evaluations from the 2006 were very good. The 2007 will be in Traverse City again, sometime in late September or October. A topic of “Girls’ Issues” is planned.

E. Legislative Committee-Lisa Sullivan

(1) By-Laws-Vote Required

Kathy Falk Fehrman would like to see a youth representative on the Governor’s Task Force. Justice Weaver reported that the Governor’s Committee on Juvenile Justice requires youth representation on the committee since the 1970s. Over the years, it has been very difficult to get youth to participate. Justice Weaver would like Kathy to look into this further and make sure there is no provision against having a youth on the committee. A youth might be able to appointed but they could be an ad hoc member.

Motion by Lisa Sullivan to approve the by-laws. Motion 2nd by Elias Escobedo. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

F. Video Recording Committee-Nancy Diehl

There are no pending bills on video recording on child interviews in CPS cases.

G. Web-Site-Colleen Duhm

The Web-Site was been up for the past for GTF member approval. It was requested that the site stay up for one month so everyone has a chance to review it. The site will

stay live until 2/9/07. Good feedback was received regarding the web-site at this point.

5. Financial Report – Colleen Duhm

A. Annual Grant Application & 3-Year Plan Due 5/15/07

The Grant Application & 3-Year Plan is due 5/15/07, two months earlier than previous years. The strategic planning session will help when writing the three year plan.

B. Tentative Allocation for FY 2007 (10/1/07 to 9/30/09)-\$530,189

There is \$200,000 of unencumbered funds that need to be spent by 9/30/07. Extensions for spending the funds will now be very difficult to obtain. The money needs to be spent or we risk losing it. Ideas of how to spend the funds were discussed after strategic planning session on 1/12/07. These ideas will be reviewed by the Executive Committee on 2/9/07.

Kathy Fehrman requested that we see if GTF can get an exception to DMB's stringent policies regarding contracts, either through DMB or the Governor. Kathy will work on getting an exception.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. Jean Carl

Nancy Diehl announced a moment of "celebration" in Jean's memory at the beginning of the strategic planning session on 1/11/07. A fund has been set up in Jean's memory at MSU School of Law. Donations can be given to Colleen Duhm and they will be forwarded.

8. Announcements

None

9. Public Comment

None

10. Future Meetings Dates

Friday, March 9, 2007 at the Michigan State Bar in Lansing

Friday, June 29, 2007 at the Boulevard Inn in St. Joe.

Tentative date if another meeting is needed-April 13, 2007.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Minute prepared by C. Duhm

1/19/07